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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

ON April 19 the *British Journal of Nursing* celebrated its silver jubilee, or twenty-fifth anniversary. During these years it has carried on a campaign for high professional standards and freedom from economic bondage, unparalleled in the history of nursing. Only a few will ever know what Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's long, unremitting war against the intellectual arrogance and commercial greediness of ruling classes has meant for the nursing profession. Incidentally, the amount of her own money which she has poured out in the early battle of this campaign would make many eyes fly open. The exploiters and would-be autocrats of English nurses look longingly for the time when years shall retire her, but meantime she has built up a spirit and equipment for self-government which will protect English nurses forever. May she live a hundred years, say we, and may her dauntless spirit never die!

THE British nurses' registration bill, now before Parliament is, as usual, bitterly opposed by the governors of the London Hospital. It proposes a term for training longer than that of this hospital and would also endanger its profits from private duty.

THE first class of nurses trained in the Roman school in Italy had a brilliant commencement day and received their certificates from Queen Elena in the Quirinal palace. There were sixteen graduates, two of whom were Florentine nuns. The Queen also gave silver medals to all of the English head nurses and gave Miss Dorothy Snell, the matron, a gold medal. Other Italian cities, among them Genoa, Spezia, and Florence, are founding training schools, and their representatives came to see the ceremony in Rome. An English matron, Miss Violetta Thurstan, has been appointed to the hospital at Spezia.

MEANTIME, in France, government functionaries and hospital directors are trying to get legislation which will prevent women (nurses) from being appointed as heads of hospitals. Also, the determined aim of these men is to retain as far as possible the servant class as hospital nurses. France is still in the stage of acute conflict of higher with lower

standards, and it would be a calamity if, in this phase of things, registration by the state should be proposed, as it would surely nail down the higher under the heel of the lower ideal both of nursing and of womanhood.

Two Canadian states are forging ahead in the registration movement. The Province of Manitoba is following Ontario in passing its act through the legislature. Miss Cotter, president of the nurses' association in Manitoba, has done splendid work in advancing the aims of the association.

WHAT Sister Agnes, of Germany, has for *work* may be estimated by the fact that on her holiday for *recreation* she is going to translate the third volume of "A History of Nursing!"

WITH the spring commencements come renewed and numerous inquiries from American nurses as to hospital opportunities in foreign countries. There are really almost none. The American hospital at Neuilly, Paris, does employ American nurses, but it is small, and those nurses who are on the spot and have learned French have the best chance of entering. There are no other American hospitals abroad, and none offering post-graduate courses to others than their own graduates. Foreign hospitals, like ours, have their own training schools and prefer the women trained to their own methods. There are special hospitals in England where American nurses might be given the equivalent of our post-graduate courses, but it would be essential to be on the spot and apply personally.